

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) A printing system comprising:

at least one customer service system for receiving, via a network, order information representing the content of an order of a customer for a print;

a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting the print based on the order information transferred via the network from the customer service system that has received the order information; and

an order assigning system existing between the at-least-one customer service system and the laboratory servers, for receiving the order information from the customer service system, for selecting one of the laboratory servers to output the print based on predetermined information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

wherein the predetermined information is information specifying one of the laboratory servers described in the order information by the customer.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) A printing system comprising:

at least one customer service system for receiving, via a network, order information representing the content of an order of a customer for a print;

a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting the print based on the order information transferred via the network from the customer service system that has received the order information; and

an order assigning system existing between the at-least-one customer service system and the laboratory servers, for receiving the order information from the customer service system, for selecting one of the laboratory servers to output the print based on predetermined information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

the order assigning system transferring information related to the selected laboratory to the customer service system that received the order information, the customer service system generating selection information for determining a desired one of the laboratory servers based on the information and transferring the selection information to the order assigning system, and the order assigning system using the selection information as the predetermined information.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A printing system comprising:  
a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting a print; and  
at least one order receiving assigning system comprising a customer service system for receiving order information including customer information from a customer via the network, and an assigning system for selecting, based on predetermined information, one of the laboratory servers to receive the order information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

wherein the predetermined information is information identifying one of the laboratory servers specified by the customer in the order information.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A printing system comprising:  
a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting a print ; and  
at least one order receiving assigning system comprising a customer service system for receiving order information including customer information from a customer via the network, and an assigning system for selecting, based on predetermined information, one of the laboratory servers to receive the order information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

wherein the order receiving assigning system or systems generate selection information by determining a desired one of the laboratory servers based on information related to the

selected laboratory server, and use the selection information as the predetermined information.

Claims 15-21 (Cancelled).

22. (New) The printing system of claim 7, wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based on information related to the selected laboratory server and customer-specific information.

23. (New) The printing system of claim 22, wherein the information related to the selected laboratory is based on the selected laboratory's location and said customer-specific information is a customer's address or a customer's area code.

24. (New) The printing system of claim 7, wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based on information related to the selected laboratory server and the content of the order information.

25. (New) The printing system of claim 24, wherein the content of the order information specifies a particular print service to be carried out, and wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based on the capability of the selected laboratory for performing the particular print service.

26. (New) The printing system of claim 7, wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based upon a determined load status of the selected laboratory server.

27. (New) The printing system of claim 26, wherein the load status of the selected laboratory server is determined by querying, at the time of selection, the laboratory server for load status information.

28. (New) The printing system of claim 26, wherein the load status of the selected laboratory server is determined by querying, at the time of selection, a database containing load status information for the selected laboratory server.

29. (New) The printing system of claim 14, wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based on information related to the selected laboratory server and customer-specific information.

30. (New) The printing system of claim 29, wherein the information related to the selected laboratory is based on the selected laboratory's location and said customer-specific information is a customer's address or a customer's area code.

31. (New) The printing system of claim 14, wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based on information related to the selected laboratory server and the content of the order information.

32. (New) The printing system of claim 31, wherein the content of the order information specifies a particular print service to be carried out, and wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based on the capability of the selected laboratory for performing the particular print service.

33. (New) The printing system of claim 14, wherein a desired one of the laboratory servers is determined based upon a determined load status of the selected laboratory server.

34. (New) The printing system of claim 33, wherein the load status of the selected laboratory server is determined by querying, at the time of selection, the laboratory server for load status information.

35. (New) The printing system of claim 33, wherein the load status of the selected laboratory server is determined by querying, at the time of selection, a database containing load status information for the selected laboratory server.